

## Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 231019Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8300

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14955

EXDIS

FOR HABIB FROM WHITEHOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: GAO INVESTIGATION OF THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

1. DANTE B. FASCELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WROTE A LETTER JUNE 23 TO THE GAO COMPTROLLER GENERAL. THE LETTER WAS AN OFFICIAL REQUEST THAT GAO "CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE SEIZURE OF THE US VESSEL MAYAGUEZ AND SUBSEQUENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AND MILITARY OPERATIONS TO SECURE ITS RELEASE." THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS ASKED GAO TO FOCUS PARTICULARLY ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CRISIS PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

2. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL WROTE THE SECRETARY JULY 8 SEEKING HIS COOPERATION IN THIS REVIEW. GAO APPROACHED US LOCALLY JULY 22 WITH THE FOLLOWING LIST OF EIGHT "WORK STEPS."

(1) OBTAIN ALL U.S. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMORANDUMS OF CONVERSATION WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT.

(2) OBTAIN ALL THAI PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

(3) OBTAIN ALL WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS TO U.S. EMBASSY AND ALL U.S. EMBASSY MESSAGES TO WASHINGTON.

(4) OBTAIN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN U.S. EMBASSY AND THE U.S. COMMANDER AT UTAPAO, LT. GEN. JOHN J. BURNS--THE TOP ON-THE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SCENE COMMANDER OR OTHER OTHER U.S. COMMANDS IN THAILAND.

(5) ESTABLISH TIME OF ALL CONTACTS BETWEEN U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND THAI CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. OBTAIN INFORMATION ON CONTENT OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS.

(6) WAS U.S. EMBASSY AWARE AND DID IT INFORM WASHINGTON OF CAMBODIAN SEIZURE OF THAI OR OTHER VESSELS IN THE GULF OF SIAM?

(7) DID ANY COMMUNICATIONS LINKS EXIST BETWEEN THE THAI AND CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENTS?

(8) OBTAIN INFORMATION ON SHIPPING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SATTAHIP, THAILAND FROM MAY 1-12. DID THESE SHIPS FOLLOW THE SAME ROUTE AS THE MAYAGUEZ AND WERE THERE ANY ROUTING CHANGES?

3. WE HAVE PROMISED A REPLY TO THE GAO JULY 28. WE SEE NO PROBLEMS IN ANSWERING "WORK STEPS" (1), (2), (6), AND (7). IN REGARD TO (4), WE WERE NOT SENDING MESSAGES TO GENERAL BURNS, AND THE MILITARY WILL HAVE TO FURNISH THOSE OF THIS MESSAGES ON WHICH USSAG INCLUDED US FOR INFORMATION. AS FOR (5), PRECISE TIMES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECONSTRUCT, BUT WE CAN APPROXIMATE THEM. WE'LL DO OUR BEST ON (8). IN VIEW PARTICULARLY OF "WORK STEP" (3), REQUEST YOUR PERSONAL GUIDANCE BY JULY 27 ON HOW TO HANDLE IT.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1975  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Film Number:** D750254-0192  
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